

HISTORY

The Contoocook River was a major travel and communication route during the settlement of New England. These early settlers created villages along the river to utilize its resources. Many of the areas surrounding the Contoocook River are registered historic sites. One of these is the homestead of Franklin Pierce, the first and only president to come from New Hampshire. In 1782 the Contoocook River was first crossed, and in 1835 the double-arched Edna Dean Proctor Bridge was built. This bridge, along with the river's scenic beauty, offered a very profitable tourist business in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Today, the Henniker section of the Contoocook River is the ideal spot for a family canoe trip.

Historically the Contoocook River flooded, sometimes causing serious damage. In March of 1936, heavy rains and melting snow caused the Contoocook River to overflow its banks. Then on September 21, 1938, the Contoocook River caused statewide flooding as the result of a hurricane. As a result the stream stages were similar to those of March 1936 and exceeded those stages in the Upper Contoocook River. This was the flood that prompted construction of the two dams that today control the river.

The building of the Everett and Hopkinton Dams started in the late 1950's and was completed in the early 1960's. The rationale for these dams was to keep the Merrimack and Contoocook Rivers from flooding some of the towns along the Contoocook River and the areas along the Merrimack River. Today the Contoocook and Merrimack River areas contain some of the major populations of people and businesses in southern New Hampshire.

The Hopkinton and Everett dams created the Hopkinton-Everett Lake, which holds 51.2 billion gallons of water. The Hopkinton-Everett Lake can contain 6.8 inches of rain runoff water. The project to build the dam was completed in 1963 at a cost of \$21.4 million. The total land and water acreage at the Hopkinton-Everett Lake is 10,018 acres.

WATER SAFETY

NH law requires that you have on board the following:

All boats must have one wearable, Coast Guard approved, accessible personal flotation device (PFD). A Coast Guard approved label is found on the inside of the PFD.

All boats operating after sunset and before sunrise must display lights visible to other boats.

Children sixteen and under must wear a PFD when aboard the boat. However, PFD's are recommended for all ages.

Water Safety Tips:

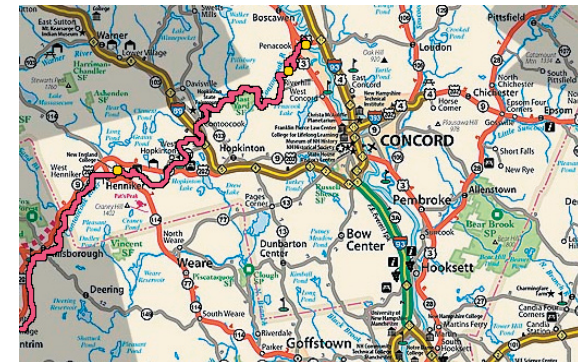
- *Learn to swim.
- *Tell others when you will be on the water, and when you plan to return.
- *Take a local boating course.
- *Watch the weather forecast.
- *During a thunderstorm, immediately pull your boat onto shore and seek shelter until the storm passes.



DIRECTIONS

From Concord:

Take I-89 N toward LEBANON/WHITE RIVER JCT. VT. for 8.3 miles.
Merge onto US-202 W/NH-9 via EXIT 5 on the LEFT toward HENNIKER/KEENE. Go 7.5 miles.
Take the ramp toward HENNIKER/BRADFORD.
Turn LEFT onto MAPLE ST/BRADFORD RD/ NH114. Continue to follow NH 114 for 1.1 miles, passing through the town of Henniker.
Turn LEFT onto RAMSDELL RD.
The parking and launch site is by the bridge.



Total Est. Time: 24 minutes
Total Est. Distance: 20.40 miles



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



Produced by:
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For more information about
life along the Contoocook River visit:
www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/hel/helhome.htm

Along The Contoocook River



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England Division
Hopkinton Everett Lakes
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Contoocook, New Hampshire 03229
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PLANTS



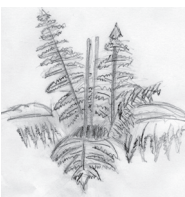
Common: Name: Downy Rattlesnake Plantain
Scientific Name: *Goodyera pubescens*
Description: A 6-18" white flower with broad, rounded green leaves. Blooms July to August.

Common Name: Red Maple
Scientific Name: *Acer rubrum*
Description: Reddish and lustrous leaves, buds usually blunt and green or reddish with several loose scales usually present, leaf scars V-shaped, 3 bundle scars.



Common Name: Closed Gentian
Scientific Name: *Gentiana clausa*
Description: Violet or blue flowers first appear mid-summer to mid-fall. Leaves can reach 4 inches.

Common Name: Northern Pitcher-plant
Scientific Name: *Sarracenia purpurea*
Description: 8-24" tall, 2" across, dark red.



Common Name: Cinnamon Fern
Scientific Name: *Osmunda cinnamomum*
Description: Round and slightly grooved fronds at first covered with cinnamon-colored hairs, later becoming smooth and green.

MAMMALS

Common Name: White Tailed Deer
Scientific Name: *Odocoileus virginianus*
Description: Summer - reddish brown coat; winter - dull grey; short white tail.



Common Name: Fishercat
Scientific Name: *Martes pennanti*
Description: Dark brown to black fur, often matted.

Common Name: Striped Skunk
Scientific Name: *Mephitis mephitis*
Description: Dark body lined with a white stripe down the back.



Common Name: Common Gray Fox
Scientific Name: *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*
Description: Grayish color with white throat and ears.

Common Name: Eastern Gray Squirrel
Scientific Name: *Sciurus carolinensis*
Description: Gray coat in the summer; in the winter it changes to a darker, almost black color.



BIRDS



Common Name: Common Raven
Scientific Name: *Corvus corax*
Description: Entirely black, larger than a crow.
Sound: Croaking ("Wonk-Wonk").

Common Name: Blue Jay
Scientific Name: *Cyanocitta cristata*
Description: Bright blue body with black crest and upper parts.
Sound: Whistle ("Jay-jay").



Common Name: Mallard Duck
Scientific Name: *Anas platyrhynchos*
Description: Male-grayish brown feathers, green head, purple breast. Female-brown and white feathers with purple on tip of wings.

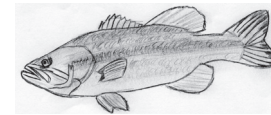
Common Name: Great-Blue Heron
Scientific Name: *Ardea herodias*
Description: White crown and face, blue-gray back, wings and belly.
Sound: Hoarse, deep squawk.



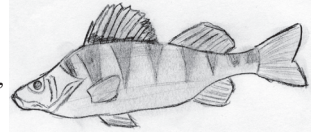
Common Name: Eastern Meadowlark
Scientific Name: *Sturnella magna*
Description: Yellow belly, black breast and feathers with white, buff, and black head stripes.
Sound: Whistling ("See-you-see-er").

UNDERWATER ANIMALS

Common Name: Large mouth bass
Scientific Name: *Micropterus salmoides*
Length: 24"
Color: Olive to dark green, with greenish yellow sides.



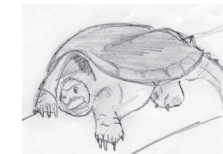
Common Name: Yellow Perch
Scientific Name: *Perca flavescens*
Length: 12" long
Color: Olive yellow, 6 to 8 dark vertical stripes, yellow belly.



Common Name: Rock Bass
Scientific Name: *Ambloplites rupestris*
Length: 6" to 8" long
Color: Olive with brassy reflections, whitish breast and belly.

Common Name: Rainbow Trout
Scientific Name: *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Length: 15" long
Color: Greenish silver, black and silver sides.



Common Name: Snapping Turtle
Scientific Name: *Chelydra serpentina*
Length: Up to 28"
Color: Brown, green or black with some tan possible.

